

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-31 were rejected.

Claims 1, 13, 14, 25 and 26 are amended herein.

I. Drawings

The Drawings were objected to on the basis that they fail to show necessary textual labels of features or symbols depicted in the figures. Proposed drawing corrections for Figures 1-6 are attached hereto which are believed to address the stated objection. Upon the proposed drawing corrections being indicated as approved by the Examiner, Applicants will submit corrected formal drawing sheets. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. 35 USC §102 Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Chang *et al.* (USP Application No. 2002/0052674 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection and request reconsideration by the Examiner.

As the Applicants describe in the Specification, there is increasingly a need for the maintenance of a set of data related to an object in a database readily accessible to the object. Moreover, due to potential communication bottlenecks, and the need to avoid unnecessary usage of long-haul communication facilities, it is also desirable that such a database be maintained in geographic proximity to the position of the object.

In many cases access to the database by or on behalf of the object will be implemented via a wireless or wireline communications channel between the object and a computer server at which the database is maintained. It will also be the case that, for some objects, frequent to near-continuous access to the database is needed. In that circumstance, access to the database

from an object located remotely from the database location would not only involve intensive use of long-haul communication facilities, but also an increased likelihood of error being introduced by multiple communications hops.

To address such problems, the invention provides a dynamic database arranged to cause the data associated with a given object to be automatically transferred from a first database located proximate to an initial location of the object to a second data base located proximate to a new location of the object, as the object moves from the initial location to the new location. In an exemplary embodiment, the object in question is a person and the data will include biometric information for the person.

A processor is implemented in the invention that operates on data indicative of movement by the object, from, *e.g.*, a first position to a second position, to effect a transfer of data related to the object from a database located proximate to the first position to a data base proximate to the second position. Such data indicative of movement by the object may be provided by a GPS receiver adapted to track the position of the object and to communicate that position data to the processor. Alternatively, other methods known in the art for determining position data for an object may be applied.

In response to a signal from the processor, a server at which the first position database is maintained may be caused to transmit the data associated with the object to another database server located proximate to the second position, via a high-speed data burst. For a preferred embodiment of the invention, however, the transfer of the object data from the first database server to the second database server will be scheduled at a time preceding or following the actual movement of the object, which preceding or following time will correspond with a low-

usage period for the communications facilities interconnecting the first and second database servers.

The cited §102 reference, Chang, is directed to a quite different idea. The essential teaching of Chang is a methodology for accessing a data network, such as the Internet, from a wireless terminal. In particular, Chang employs various search algorithms that are said to provide intelligent searching among a plurality of databases accessed via the Internet, so as to minimize the file size to be downloaded via the wireless network. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that such a generic database search application cannot reasonably be construed to anticipate the dynamic database of the invention here, as that invention is described above.

In the critique of Applicants' claims provided by the Office Action, an analog is suggested between the database of the invention located proximate to the first position of the object (first data storage unit) and the wireless terminal, presumably inferring some inherent database capability in the wireless terminal. A second analog is then suggested between the second data storage unit of the claimed invention (at the second position for the object) and the server computer at an Internet database site accessed in the Internet by the wireless terminal of Chang. The processor of Applicants' claimed invention is said to correspond to the server computer at the accessed Internet database site, also referred to in the Office Action as "Internet Service Provider."

Applicants believe it unreasonable to characterize data downloaded from a generic Internet database as corresponding to the object-related data of the claimed invention. Nonetheless, even accepting this premise and granting that the Internet access process of Chang operates generically to transfer data from the Internet database to a presumptive storage

capability in the wireless terminal, the reference still fails to anticipate the claimed invention. The critical point here is that of movement on the part of the object from a first location to a second location, and the transfer of the object related data between databases located proximate those two locations in coordination with the movement of the object. This aspect of the invention plainly is not shown, or even suggested, by Chang.

It appears that the Office Action suggests an analogy between the movement of the wireless terminal within its wireless serving area and movement of the object between first and second positions according to the claimed invention. This is simply not a supportable premise.

Plainly, the only movement of the object (wireless terminal) suggested by the reference is the movement of the wireless terminal within the wireless service area. By the very definition of such wireless service, no movement of the wireless terminal (or its user) to the proximity of the Internet server occurs. Rather, the data moved from the Internet server to the wireless terminal is transferred in real time via long-haul communication facilities connecting the Internet server with a base station serving the wireless terminal, exactly the result the invention is directed to avoid.

Applicants therefore respectfully suggest that nothing in the teaching of Chang could reasonably be construed to show or suggest the dynamic database of the invention.

Each of Applicants' independent claims includes at least an inferential limitation directed to the movement of the object between the first and second positions, along with the coordinated transfer of the object data between geographically proximate databases at those positions, which features plainly distinguish over Chang. Nonetheless, Applicants have determined here to amend the independent claims so as to positively recite that movement of the object between the first and second positions. As so amended, Applicants submit that the

claims now clearly distinguish over Chang. Withdrawal of the §102 rejection of Applicants' claims is accordingly respectfully requested.

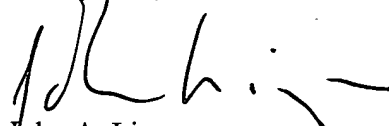
III. Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections herein, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application now stands in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

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Please charge any fees due in respect to this amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-1944.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on September 9, 2004.

By:



John A. Ligon